

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for maintaining a personnel directory comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a request to edit an existing data entry of the personnel directory;
  - copying the existing data entry to create a previous data entry;
  - editing the existing data entry; and
  - associating the previous data entry with an associated data entry.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the previous data entry is stored in a historical database and the associated data entry is stored in a current database.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of editing comprises changing the existing data entry to a new data entry, and
  - wherein the associated data entry is the new data entry.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the existing data entry is a name of a person listed in the personnel directory, and wherein the new data entry is a new name of the person.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of editing the existing data entry comprises deleting the existing data entry, and
  - wherein the associated data entry is a replacement data entry of the personnel directory.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of prompting a user to identify the replacement data entry.
7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of identifying the replacement data entry automatically using predefined rules.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the existing data entry corresponds to a departed person, and wherein the replacement data entry corresponds to a person who has assumed responsibilities of the departed person.

9. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry;  
searching the current database for the previous data entry;  
searching the historical database for the previous data entry;  
identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry; and  
reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of reporting how the previous data entry and the associated data entry are associated.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of reporting why the previous data entry was superseded.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving a search query comprises at least one of receiving the search query in a search engine of the personnel directory and receiving the search query as a request to browse a list of data entries from at least one of the current database and the historical database.

13. A system for maintaining a personnel directory comprising:  
(a) a personnel directory application;  
(b) a current database in communication with the personnel directory application; and  
(c) a historical database in communication with the personnel directory application,

wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to establish associations between up-to-date data entries of the current database and outdated data entries of the historical database.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to copy a data entry of the current database into the historical database, to edit the data entry of the current database into an edited data entry, and to associate the edited data entry of the current database with the copied data entry of the historical database.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to search the current database for the copied data entry, to search the historical database for the copied data entry, and to identify the copied data entry as corresponding to the edited data entry.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to provide an explanation of the association between the copied data entry and the edited data entry.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to copy a data entry of the current database into the historical database, to delete the data entry of the current database, and to associate the copied data entry of the historical database with a replacement data entry of the current database.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to prompt a user to determine the replacement data entry.

19. A personnel directory application comprising:

(a) a first database interface through which the personnel directory application is adapted to store current data entries in a current database;

(b) a second database interface through which the personnel directory application is adapted to store outdated data entries in a historical database; and

(c) a graphical user interface that accepts a search query for a desired outdated data entry, wherein the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database, and wherein the graphical user interface, in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database.

20. The personnel directory application of claim 19, wherein the current database and the historical database are a single database.

21. A method for maintaining a personnel directory of an organization comprising the steps of:

copying an existing data entry into a copied data entry;  
editing the existing data entry to create a new data entry;  
associating the new data entry with the copied data entry;  
receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and  
reporting the copied data entry and the associated new data entry.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of reporting how the copied data entry and the associated new data entry are associated.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the existing data entry includes a name of a member in the organization, and wherein the step of editing comprises changing the name of the member.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the existing data entry and the new data entry are stored in a current database, and wherein the copied data entry is stored in a historical database.

25. A method for maintaining a personnel directory of an organization comprising the steps of:

copying an existing data entry into a copied data entry;  
deleting the existing data entry;  
determining a replacement data entry;  
associating the copied data entry with the replacement data entry;  
receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and  
reporting the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of reporting how the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry are associated.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the existing data entry includes information related to a member who is departing the organization, and wherein the replacement data entry includes information related to a replacement member of the organization who substitutes for the departing member.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of determining comprises determining an organizational position of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry with the organizational position, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of determining comprises determining a supervisor of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry corresponding to the supervisor, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of determining comprises prompting a user to specify the replacement data entry.
31. The method of claim 25, wherein the replacement data entry is stored in a current database and the copied data entry is stored in a historical database.